

# **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to an isolated DNA molecule from a thermophilic bacterium which encodes a DNA polymerase III-type enzyme subunit.

5 Also encompassed by the present invention are host cells and expression system including the heterologous DNA molecule of the present invention, as well as isolated replication enzyme subunits encoded by such DNA molecules. Also disclosed is a method of producing a recombinant thermostable DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, or subunit thereof, from a thermophilic bacterium, which is carried out by

10 transforming a host cell with at least one heterologous DNA molecule of the present invention under conditions suitable for expression of the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, or subunit thereof, and then isolating the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, or subunit thereof.